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# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet

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## The N.H. Guidelines for Coordinated Lake Management and Shoreland Protection Plans and the N.H. Comprehensive Lake Inventory

With nearly 1,000 waterbodies 10 acres or more in size, New Hampshire lakes and ponds are one of the state's greatest natural resources. Increased human presence in and around the state's lakes and ponds has resulted in a need for an active, multidisciplinary management approach to secure the wise management and preservation of these waterbodies. Balancing the societal demands on a lake or pond, while attempting to maintain the natural ecosystem structure and functions, often requires complex and creative solutions.

### **Why is lake management important?**

Lake management describes the art of balancing the multiple uses of lakes and ponds and their associated tributaries, while attempting to restore or protect the natural, physical, chemical and biological characteristics within a hydrographically defined geographic area. The interrelation between human activities and environmental quality places unique and complicated demands on lakes and ponds; these demands often conflict. The process of developing a lake management plan leads to the creation of cooperative partnerships between federal, state, and local agencies, as well as lake associations, municipalities, landowners and the general public. Developing a management plan also allows for a chance to promote environmentally responsible use of a watershed's land and water resources.

### **The New Hampshire Guidelines for Coordinated Lake Management and Shoreland Protection Plans**

*The New Hampshire Guidelines for Coordinated Lake Management and Shoreland Protection Plans*, which was mandated by statute RSA 483-A, was developed by the Lakes Management and Protection Program (LMPP) in cooperation with the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning. It is designed to provide municipalities and lake associations with the information they need to develop and apply lake management and watershed management plans at the grassroots level. This compendium document outlines the who, what, where and how for the preparation and implementation of management plans. Developing a lake management plan can be overwhelming due to the breadth and volume of information needed and available. The LMPP developed the *New Hampshire Comprehensive Lake Inventory* to help groups collect relevant and appropriate information when developing a lake management plan.

## **New Hampshire Comprehensive Lake Inventory**

The *New Hampshire Comprehensive Lake Inventory* (CLI) was designed to guide the user in the collection of information about a specific lake and its watershed with the understanding that it will be used when developing a lake management plan. The CLI is organized into ten primary attributes, with each attribute designed to address specific characteristics when developing a lake management plan. The CLI contains a total of 94 questions, but groups with limited time and/or resources may choose to conduct an assessment using only those questions related to the lake values in which they are interested, such as *recreational*, *uniqueness*, or *susceptibility to impairment*.

Ultimately, this data will be used to develop state and local management techniques, which will be implemented to protect or restore the natural characteristics (physical, chemical, and biological) of a waterbody while accommodating the important economic, social, and recreational values and uses. The CLI is to be used in conjunction with its companion document *The New Hampshire Guidelines for Coordinated Lake Management and Shoreland Protection Plans*.

### **For More Information**

For further information about the N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program, visit the DES website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/lakes/index.htm>, or contact Jacquie Colburn, Lakes Coordinator, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-2959; [jacquie.colburn@des.nh.gov](mailto:jacquie.colburn@des.nh.gov).